



City of Woodburn
Public Works Department Press Release

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For more information:

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WATER SUPPLY DISINFECTION

The City of Woodburn is currently installing equipment that will allow disinfection of the water supplied to your home and your business. This disinfection process is often referred to in the water supply industry as secondary disinfection. Woodburn has experienced water quality issues for some time. The City has already invested in a primary treatment system designed to remove iron, arsenic, and manganese. The water is currently treated with a strong oxidizing agent called permanganate and chlorine is not used in this primary disinfection. The result of this primary treatment is that our ground water is pure due to the removal of unwanted minerals and sanitized because of the strong oxidation process. However, once the water enters the water distribution system, no disinfection is provided to kill unwanted pathogens that are at risk of entering the water system in over 120 miles of piping.

Chlorine is the most effective way to disinfect water supplies and is used extensively throughout the United States and in other developed countries. Chlorination of water supplies has been recognized as one of the greatest achievements in promoting public health. The City has determined that the most beneficial means of providing secondary disinfection of the water supply system is using chlorine in the form of chloramines. Chloramines are compounds that are formed when chlorine combines with ammonia. The City's ground water has a naturally occurring presence of ammonia in our water. This naturally occurring ammonia will be combined with a low concentration of sodium hypochlorite added to the water to form the chloramines needed to provide the secondary disinfection.

Most residents of Woodburn will not notice the presence of chloramines in the water supply. Everyone should experience improved water quality with regard to odors and turbidity (cloudiness). However, two groups of water customers must take precautions - **kidney dialysis patients and fish (aquatic life) owners**. In addition, people with weakened immune systems; including infants, elderly



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people, persons with HIV/AIDS and those who are undergoing chemotherapy, should consult a health care professional about the need to use specially treated water in lieu of water from a municipal source that is disinfected in accordance with federal and state water quality regulations. Any customer with concerns regarding the use of disinfected water should visit the City website for additional information or use the contact information below.

An insert in monthly water bills containing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding secondary disinfection using chloramines will be sent out starting the end of February 2011. Additionally, City staff will be hosting several Open Houses at various locations around our community to answer questions regarding the Water Supply Disinfection Project.

Please visit the City website at <http://www.ci.woodburn.or.us> or call the Public Works Department at (503) 982-5240 for more information regarding water supply disinfection.